

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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FRENCH REALISM EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Over 250 works by 70 artists go on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art on November 12 in the exhibition The Realist Tradition: French Painting and Drawing 1830-1900. The exhibition, organized by The Cleveland Museum of Art's curator of Art History and Education Dr. Gabriel P. Weisberg, continues in Cleveland through January 18, 1981 before traveling to The Brooklyn Museum (March 7-May 10, 1981), the St. Louis Art Museum (July 23-September 20, 1981), and the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Scotland (November 5, 1981-January 4, 1982).

Of all the artistic traditions of nineteenth-century France, Realism remains the least studied and cataloged. While there has been a recent revival of interest in the work of Gustave Courbet (1819-1877) and Jean François Millet (1814-1875), little is known of the other realists in Courbet's circle and of those who continued the tradition after 1870. At the time they were well known; their works were purchased by private collectors and museums such as Musée des Augustins, Toulouse, and Musée des Beaux-Arts, Marseille. In many instances however, those acquisitions have come to languish in attics and basements, the victims of official neglect and changing taste as the Realists have been all but forgotten in this century's embrace of impressionism and the modern movement.

The Realist Tradition examines, within the context of nineteenth century France, artists and the social themes they depicted. The major contribution of the Realists was to legitimize every aspect of human life as a subject for art. The paintings and drawings in the exhibition reflect the way artists saw themselves and their times. They depicted daily life, and the result was an imagery more readily accessible to

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both the masses and bourgeoisie. Of particular interest to many realist artists was the plight of the worker in the city and the peasant in the country.

The seven decades spanned by the exhibition are broken into two divisions: Realism, which explores the origins of the movement from 1830 to 1870, and Naturalism, which examines the continuation of the tradition after the Franco-Prussian War as it shifted toward Naturalism.

Organized into the four official categories that helped gain entry to the Salon (genre, still life, portrait, and landscape), the exhibition will bring together the work of neglected masters such as François Bonvin, Jules Bastien-Lepage, and Léon Lhermitte. Artists represented in the exhibition include:

Alexandre Antigna	1817-1878
Pierre Edouard Frère	1819-1886
Octave Tassaert	1800-1874
François Bonvin	1817-1887
Johann Jongkind	1819-1891
Théodule Ribot	1823-1891
Germain Ribot	1845-1893
Honoré Daumier	1808-1879
J. J. Monanteuil	1785-1860
Adolphe-Félix Cals	1810-1880
Jean François Millet	1814-1875
Jean Gigoux	1806-1894
Amand Gautier	1825-1894
François Bonhommé	1830-1870
Adolphe Leleux	1812-1891
Armand Leleux	1818/20-1885
Léon Lhermitte	1844-1925
Louis Cabat	1812-1893
Jules Breton	1827-1906
Rosa Bonheur	1822-1899
Gustave Courbet	1819-1877
Constant Troyon	1810-1865
Gustave Brion	1824-1877
Auguste Herlin	1815-1900
Camille Flers	1802-1868
Philippe Auguste Jeanron	1808-1877
Léon Bonvin	1834-1866
J. J. Henner	1829-1905
Eugène Lepoittevin	1806-1870
Auguste Feyen-Perrin	1829-1888
Dominique Rozier	1840-1901
Adolphe Hervier	1818-1879
Henri Fantin-Latour	1836-1904
Edgar Degas	1834-1917
Isidore Pils	1813-1875

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Alphonse Legros	1837-1911
Antoine Vollon	1833-1900
Alexis Vollon	1865-1945
Marie François Firmin-Girard	1838-1921
Ernest Meissonier	1815-1891
Eugène Boudin	1824-1898
Philippe Rousseau	1816-1887
Camille Pissarro	1830-1903
Jean Antoine Bail	1830-1919
Joseph Bail	1862-1921
Léon Bonnat	1833-1922
Marcellin Desboutin	1823-1902
Jean François Raffaelli	1850-1924
Gustave Caillebotte	1848-1894
Jules Bastien-Lepage	1848-1884
Jean Béraud	1849-1935
Norbert Goeneutte	1854-1894
Eugène Carrière	1849-1906
Charles Maurin	1856-1914
Ulysse Butin	1838-1883
Guillaume Fouace	1837-1895
Victor Gilbert	1847-1935
Henri Gervex	1852-1929
Jules Adler	1865-1952
Jean Charles Cazin	1841-1901
Julien Duprê	1851-1910
Paul Sérusier	1864-1927
Emile Bastien-Lepage	1854-1936
Denis Bergeret	1846-1910
E. Carolus-Duran	1838-1917
Gustave Colin	1828-1910
Alfred Casile	1848-1909
Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret	1852-1929
Albert Lebourg	1849-1928

Paintings and drawings are being lent by public and private collections in Europe and North America. Some of the major works and their lenders are:

Alphonse Legros, The Ex-Voto (Musée de Dijon)
 Camille Pissarro, Still Life (The Toledo Museum of Art, USA)
 Henri Fantin-Latour, The Two Sisters (St. Louis Art Museum, USA)
 Edouard Manet, The Reader (St. Louis Art Museum, USA)
 Alexandre Antigna, The Fire (Musée d'Orléans)
 Isidore Pils, The Death of a Sister of Charity (Musée des Augustins, Toulouse)
 François Bonvin, Interior of a Tavern (The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore)
 Jules Breton, Fire in a Haystack (Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, USA)
 Jean François Millet, Harvesters Resting (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA)
 Théodule Ribot, The Good Samaritan (Musée de Pau)
 Octave Tassaert, A Corner of His Atelier (Musée du Louvre)
 Léon Lhermitte, Quartet, charcoal drawing (Cabinet des Dessins, Louvre)
 Jean Charles Cazin, The Boatyard (Cleveland Museum of Art)
 Jules Bastien-Lepage, Portrait of Madame Samary (Collection of Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, Cleveland, USA)
 Jean Béraud, The Pastry Shop "Gloppe" (Musée Carnavalet, Paris)
 Léon Bonvin, Street in Front of Léon Bonvin's House, watercolor (Private Collection, France)

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Honoré Daumier, The Print Collector (Musée du Petit Palais, Paris)
Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret, Horses at the Watering Trough (Musée de Chambéry)
François Bonhommé, The Factories at Le Creusot (Private Collection, France)
Gustave Brion, The Potato Harvest (Musée de Nantes)
Octave Tassaert, Portrait of Alfred Bruyas (Musée Fabre, Montpellier)
Edouard Frère, Preparing Dinner (Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, USA)
Ernest Meissonier, The Ruins of the Tuileries (Musée de Compiègne)
Eugène Boudin, Still Life with Lobster (High Art Museum, Atlanta, USA)
Antoine Vollon, Still Life with Eggs (Private Collection, USA)
Antoine Vollon, The Pont-Neuf (Private Collection, USA)
Armand Leleux, Interval in the Studio (Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland)
Jean François Millet, Portrait of Madame Roumy (Musée Thomas Henry, Cherbourg)
Jean François Raffaelli, The Family of Jean-le-Boiteux (Mairie de La Quesnoy)
Victor Gilbert, A Corner of the Fish Market: Morning (Musée de Lille)
Victor Gilbert, Meat Haulers (Musée de Bordeaux)

Other major museums joining those listed above and the over 40 French provincial museums as lenders include:

The National Gallery, London
The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
The National Gallery of Scotland
The National Gallery of Ireland
The Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris

The Realist Tradition is an exhibition that will lead to the reevaluation of a number of artists. It presents paintings and drawings that have not in this century been seen by large numbers of people, and it is an exhibition where the content, the ideas and ideals portrayed, is as important as style and design.

The Realist Tradition is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; a federal indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities; a grant from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs through L'Association Française d'Action Artistique; and a grant from the Scottish Arts Council. The Cleveland showing is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

A hardbound catalog of the exhibition with 400 illustrations, 43 in color, prepared by Dr. Weisberg and published by The Cleveland Museum of Art, will be sold for \$15 at the Museum. Also available will be a free guide to the exhibition written by Helen Borowitz, associate curator of Art History and Education.

For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.